

Message

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To: This Week @ EPA [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=7a2f56a248e647f0bd8a89e90ec7afbc-EPA News]
Subject: This Week @ EPA - June 24, 2019



June 24, 2019

Taken by Michelle McClendon of the Office of Mission

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Senior Leadership Update

EPA takes important step to further protect children from exposure to lead-contaminated dust

On Friday Administrator Wheeler, along with Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson, announced new, tighter standards for lead-based paint on floors and window sills to protect children from the harmful effects of lead exposure.

“EPA is delivering on our commitment in the Trump Administration’s Federal Lead Action Plan to take important steps to reduce child lead exposure,” said EPA Administrator Wheeler. “Today’s final rule is the first time in nearly two decades EPA is issuing a stronger, more protective standard for lead-based paint in homes and child care facilities across the country.”

To learn more, please read the associated [press release](#). To see pictures from the event, please see the [Lead Dust Rule event photo gallery](#).



Administrator Wheeler signs the final Affordable Clean Energy rule

EPA issued, on June 19, the final Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule – replacing the prior administration’s overreaching Clean Power Plan (CPP) that restores the rule of law and empowers states to continue to reduce emissions while providing affordable and reliable energy for the future.

June 19’s actions are the culmination of a review of the CPP, which was done in response to President Trump’s Executive Order on Reducing Regulatory Burdens on American Industry, Energy Independence and Economic Growth. The actions also follow challenges from a large number of states, trade associations, rural electric cooperatives and unions who argued that the CPP exceeded EPA’s authority under the Clean Air Act, and an unprecedented stay of the CPP by the Supreme Court.

“Today, we are delivering on one of President Trump’s core priorities: ensuring the American public has access to affordable, reliable energy while continuing our nation’s environmental progress,” said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “Unlike the Clean Power Plan, ACE addresses the needs of all Americans and gives states the regulatory certainty they need to continue to reduce emissions and provide a dependable, diverse supply of electricity for the future. When ACE is fully implemented, we expect to see U.S. power sector CO2 emissions fall by as much as 35 percent below 2005 levels.”

To learn more about this ACE announcement, please read the associated [press release](#) or watch the [video of the ACE signing event](#). For more photos from the event, please visit the [Ace Announcement event photo gallery](#).



Hot Topics

Final week: Have you seen your office’s EVS Response Rate?

As of today, June 24, EPA had an overall 49 percent response rate for the 2019 Employee Viewpoint Survey (EVS). EPA continues to surpass the overall government response rate of 33 percent.

For the response rate on June 24, the top three EPA offices are:

- 1.) Region 6 with 78 percent. ★
- 2.) Region 7 with 63 percent. ★
- 3.) Region 10 with 60 percent. ★

For the latest office level results, see the [Response Rate Section](#) on the [EVS SharePoint Site](#).

Eligible employees now have until **Thursday, June 27 at 11:59 p.m. EDT**, to complete the survey. Please contact EVEP@opm.gov for your survey invitation.

EPA launches ‘Green Interns Program’ for fall 2019

EPA is establishing the [Green Interns Program](#) to cultivate a collection of the best qualified candidates to fulfill mission critical occupations. Starting September 30, recent graduates will have an opportunity to serve their country through a career in the federal government, while gaining valuable experience and knowledge of environmental issues. EPA's new program creates pathway to civil service for recent graduates.

Green Interns Program participants will be entitled to several benefits including: federal health insurance, the Thrift Savings Plan, a transit subsidy, and more. Throughout the program, interns will be supported through mentoring, formal interactive training, and a career development plan. After completing the program, participants may be converted into permanent federal employees.

To be eligible for the program, candidates must have earned associate's, bachelor's, master's, professional, doctorate, vocational, or technical certificates from qualifying institutions and programs within the previous two years. Veterans are eligible to apply up to six years after their last date of service. Preference eligible veterans can apply two years after release or discharge from active duty.

To learn more about the program and how to apply, please read the associated [press release](#).

The new COMPLY App

On July 1, the Office of Grants and Debarment is scheduled to launch a new SharePoint application named COMPLY. COMPLY w

Compliance & Recipients Activities (GCRA) database in Lotus Notes and will serve as the agency's central repository for all EPA activities. The benefits of the new system include:

- Centralized grantee compliance information.
- Increased administrative and programmatic capabilities.
- Detailed and accurate reporting via Sam.gov.

Below are a few key pointers:

- To learn more about the use and functionality of the COMPLY App, register for an upcoming training webinar.
- Click [here](#) to review the online resources and guidance documents on the COMPLY Reference site.
- Please contact [Kysha Holliday](#) or [Kevin Wilson](#) if you have any questions.

EPA announces \$9.3 million in supplemental funding for the Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund

EPA announced last week \$9.3 million in supplemental funding for 24 current successful Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

funds announced today are going to communities that have demonstrated success in using their RLF funds to clean up and redevelop. These supplemental funds will be used to continue their progress in reusing vacant and abandoned properties and turning them into community assets such as parks, and open space, health facilities, social services, and commerce opportunities.

“This Brownfields supplemental funding will provide 24 communities with a proven track record of success additional resources to continue their progress in reusing vacant and abandoned properties and turning them into community assets such as parks, and open space, health facilities, social services, and commerce opportunities,” said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “We are pleased that a majority of communities receiving these supplemental funds have Opportunity Zones within their jurisdiction, which means they are the communities most in need.”

Recipients of EPA’s Brownfields RLF funding provide low-interest loans and sub-grants to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites. When the loan is repaid, the loan amount is returned into the fund and re-lent to other borrowers, providing an ongoing source of capital within a community. To date, grantees across the country have completed 694 cleanups and attracted approximately 42,000 jobs and \$8 billion in public and private investment.

To learn more about this supplemental brownfield funding, please see the related [press release](#).

Making connections to turn food waste into energy

133 billion pounds of food at the retail and consumer level in the United States goes uneaten. The accumulated total value of that main food groups consists of \$48 billion worth of poultry, meat, and fish, \$30 billion of vegetables, and \$27 billion in dairy products (EPA Research Service)

Food waste is the single largest component of our daily trash.

Decomposing food not only takes up significant amounts of space in landfills, but produces methane, a potent gas that traps heat on the planet. That's where EPA comes in.

"Reducing food waste and redirecting excess food to people, animals, or energy production provide immediate benefits to public health," noted EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler in early April as he joined with federal partners at the Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to recognize April as Winning on Reducing Food Waste Month.

One winning resource is already helping: The [agency's interactive Excess Food Opportunities Map](#), which identifies and displays food generators and recipients of excess food. The map inspired Brett Reinford, a second-generation farmer in Pennsylvania, to build a farm that turns waste into energy. To learn more, please see the [full article](#) on [EPA's Science Matters site](#).

ELMS Update

The Office of Continuous Improvement launches its newest profile series this week featuring ELMS Champions and ELMS Coordinators who continuously improve and systematically achieve measurable results throughout EPA. [Check out our first spotlight featuring Heather...](#)

Intern Spotlights

Name: Kelly Kazempoor

Name: Emily Mangum

Key Dates



Click on each event below to get more details.
Click on the "Add to Calendar" button to add an event to your Outlook calendar.

If you see a log-in screen, please click on your EPA email, or if prompted, enter your email and network password.

This week:

June 7 to June 24: [Enterprise Content Management System Degradation](#)

ADD TO CALENDAR

June 25: [Introduction to Accessible Word Documents](#) ADD TO CALENDAR

June 27: [Introduction to Section 508](#) ADD TO CALENDAR

Coming soon:

July 11: [ELMS Overview](#) ADD TO CALENDAR

September 30: [Mandatory Training deadline!](#) ADD TO CALENDAR

Video Spotlight



Ensuring the Safety of Chemicals in

Brief overview of how EPA works to ensure the safe use of chemicals under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

Total time: 01:14

Health & Wellness

Maintain a healthy weight

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 71 percent of adults in the United States who are 20 years of age and older are overweight or obese. In addition, more than 18 percent of children in the United States who are 6 to 11 years of age are obese. An unhealthy weight puts you at risk for chronic diseases and other health problems, such as [diabetes](#) and [high blood pressure](#). To achieve and maintain a healthy weight:



- Assess your weight by calculating your [body mass index](#), body composition and waist circumference.
- Set realistic goals.
- Eat a [healthy, balanced diet](#).
- Balance the number of calories you consume with the number of calories you burn.
- Add regular [physical activity](#) to your daily routine.

For more information, visit the [Weight Management page](#) on the [Safety and Sustainability Division's intranet site](#).

IT Corner

Microsoft Forms now available in Office 365

On June 18, Microsoft Forms was released a

Office 365 (O365) Suite. Microsoft Forms is a tool that allows you to create surveys, quizzes, and polls (and invite others to take them). Forms can be added to websites, SharePoint sites, and more. Results can be reviewed as they are submitted, and you can use them to evaluate responses, and results can be shared with others.

Learn More!

- [Forms Resources](#) (intranet site).
- [Frequent Questions](#).
- [Get Started with Forms](#) (Microsoft article).
- [Training Webinar \(June 27 @ 10:00a\)](#).
- Check the [EPA IT Training Calendar](#).

"Liked the ease of creating a survey!!!" – EPA

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